NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION INQUIRY

ON INDIAN HEALTH

Statement of Principle-- Adopted November 9, 1978

POLAR
PAM
3926
POLARPAM

NATIONAL IND) BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION INQUI)

ON INDIAN HEALTH

Statement of Principle - Adopted November 9, 1978

We are at one with the Creator, the Spirit, and we are at one with His Creation. When we see the land torn, abused and destroyed, we feel the pain. When we breathe in the polluted air, we feel the pain. When the rivers and the streams are filled with waste and poisons, we feel the pain. For the earth is our flesh, the air is our life breath, the rivers our own blood. We are at one with the Creation and at one with this land we love.

When we see our fellow man using his knowledge not to be in harmony with Creation, but in conflict with nature, the Creation and the Creator Himself by pillaging and destroying, we also feel the pain. As Indian people who are now seeking a vision for tomorrow, we find ourselves in conflict with this immigrant culture. We believe a man who is in conflict with creation is thus in conflict with the Creator; and since he is a part of the creation he is also in conflict with himself.

It is difficult to live in a society which men are in conflict with themselves, who impose their values and their culture upon us, without becoming confused or uncertain at times. Our whole culture, our knowledge of thousands of years, has been devoted to developing ourselves as wise children, to changing ourselves rather than changing our environment, to humble ourselves before the forces of nature, the forces and will of the Creator, to prevent our own egos from destroying us or our environment, to seek balance and harmony within ourselves and the extent that balance and harmony to all our daily acts, to our very way of life.

Rec'd: Feb 18, 1985
Order No.:
Price: G.F.
Acc. No.: Office of Native Affairs
058858
BOREAL INSTITUTE LIBRARY

We gained great strength and knowledge living in harmony and peace with ourselves, our environment, and Creator - that is the knowledge that has been passed down to us from the Creator to our Grandfathers and it is this knowledge of the path and way of the Spirit-Creator that we must again find. We are His children and we must conduct our lives in His way, or pay the price in pain and suffering.

So today we are living with our fellow man who is in conflict with himselfe, whose attitude, values and culture are adverse to nature and the creation, a people who develop and inflate their egos and force every living creature in his sphere of influence to humble themselves to the will of those few whose way of life is that of adversity, conflict and imbalance. A people who freely manipulate the environment and yes, even the lives of their fellow men. A society who misuse the power that is given it by the Great Spirit, that will destroy the creation and finally itself. The fruits of an adversary approach to nature provide many of us with bountiful material gain, but the ultimate cost may prove our own destruction.

Today the world is filled with much sickness, violence, greed and conflict - this is not without cause. When pollution of one's environment becomes a lifestyle of men, and pollution of the body becomes a form of recreation, and the centuries become a lifestyle of an imbalanced culture, it becomes all they know. It even becomes the way they perceive the universe around them, a perspective of conflict and imbalance. It is now up to us to regain our perspectives to reinforce our knowledge, even though we are surrounded by a people who are adversary to our perspective, but we must remember they are also adversary to the creation, and all the living works of the Creator.

We know from the lessons of our Grandfathers that it is easier to change what is around us than to change ourselves. It is easier to cut down a plant that seems to be in our path rather than walk around it with respect. It is easier to try to change other people than try to change ourselves. We learn that we are our own worst enemy. Our Grandfathers said - "Help us defeat my worst enemy which is myself." It is easier to follow the path of the dominant society than to choose our own path, that is why we need the knowledge of our Grandfathers more today than in our whole existence as a people.

The greatest battle we have to fight is regaining our own perspective of the universe, our own sense of balance and harmony with our society and the Creator, our own history, our own knowledge. For the knowledge that we have has been lost to the dominant society. The knowledge that we have makes us free men in communion with the Great Spirit and has been disregarded by our fellow man in favor of a knowledge that would bear more material fruits. To turn to them for answers is folly. They cannot help themselves, for they have shown they are too far from themselves and the Creator.

Our Grandfathers, our ways, our beliefs, that have made us a great people in the past will be the foundation for making us an even greater people in the future, for we are fighting the greatest battle of all - we are fighting the battle that every true man faces. Our battle is with ourselves and it is perhaps the most difficult of all battles because we are surrounded by temptations on all sides to deviate from the path on which a human being should walk.

Thousands of our people are dying needlessly throughout this land and their illness is the same illness that is plaguing all living creatures on this planet - they happen to be in the path of the greatest destructive force on this planet - the imbalance of man. But we must survive, our knowledge

must survive for the benefit of mankind and the benefit of all living creatures because our perspective is needed for humanity to regain its balance, and acknowledge the true path our Creator has given us to walk.

Not only do we need this knowledge for our own survival, mankind needs this knowledge to survive.

It is more important to learn to live in balance and harmony with oneself, the creation and the Creator than to learn how to build an atomic bomb or go to the moon and back.

We might know the outside universe but we have lost our knowledge of our universe, our own being, our own destiny. But that knowledge exists in our own teachings, our own values, which has its roots in this land.

Throughout this world some do have this knowledge because they are closer to the Creation. They are in harmony with the Creation, having lived in harmony with nature, and thus are in harmony with themselves.

The knowledge of which everyone in the 20th century is searching. Even so this true knowledge is often ridiculed and not sought by those who vainly continue to look for a solution to these ills.

Indian people have become major victims of the way of life in this country. The ill health of our people is not a problem, it is a symptom. The problem goes deeper, and we must be allowed to tackle the problem ourselves. It is our faith that good things can and will be achieved when our people are themselves permitted to have control over the attempts to rid us of these ills. In this country many Indian leaders are seeking these answers to our problems. * Such a deep level of involvemnt and committment by our people must not only be permitted, it should be wholly supported and encouraged by all true minded men.

We can use our knowledge to develop a 20th century warrior who will ride into battle with the Great Spirit, and be victoriuous over himself; a warrior who will conquer all the negative forces within himself and go back to walking the true path of a human being in communion with the Spirit.

Date Due

APR 24 '80			
RETURN	FEB 1 2 '01		

58858 Pam:614:(*41)
NIB

National Indian Brotherhood commission inquiry on Indian health : statement of principle - adopted November 9, 1978.

BOREAL INSTITUTE FOR NORTHERN STUDIES, LIBRARY
CW 401 BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BLDG.
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6G 2E9
CANADA

University of Alberta Library
0 1620 0335 4279